

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended in order to address the § 112 claim rejection and claim 17 has been amended to more particularly point out the distinction between the claim and the teachings of Call. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A filtration system comprising:
an elongated outer casing defining an outer lumen;
a plurality of elongated inner casings disposed within the outer lumen, each of the inner casings having an inner lumen in which is disposed an upstream filter and a downstream filter, each of the inner casings also having an upstream inlet positioned upstream of the upstream filter, and a downstream inlet positioned downstream of the upstream filter and upstream of the downstream filter; and
the outer casing, inner casings, and filters disposed relative to one another to define a feed fluid flow path in which a feed fluid that entered an inner casing via an upstream inlet and is exiting from an upstream filter into a downstream filter is diluted by additional feed fluid flowing into the inner casing through[[a]] the downstream inlet.
2. (previously presented) The filtration system of claim 1 wherein the downstream inlet of an inner casing is a pressure reducing orifice adapted to cooperate with one or more other inlets to cause 50%-70% of feed fluid flowing through the inner casing to enter the upstream filter.
3. (original) The filtration system of claim 2 wherein the opening is dimensioned to produce a maximum operational pressure drop of about 20%.
4. (previously cancelled)
5. (previously cancelled)

6. (previously presented) The filtration system of claim 1 further comprising a manifold fluidly coupling the inner lumen of each of the inner casings, and another manifold fluidly coupling the core space of each of the inner casings.
7. (original) The filtration system of claim 6 having opposite ends, and both of the manifolds extending from the same one of the opposite ends.
8. (original) The filtration system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the inner casings contains a plurality of the filters serially disposed to provide a substantially continuous core space, and wherein a permeate flow path extends through the substantially continuous core space.
9. (original) The filtration system of claim 8 wherein the serial disposition of the filters in at least one of the inner casings defines a substantially continuous annular space between an inner wall of each of the inner casings and the filters disposed within the inner casings.
10. (original) The filtration system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the filters is spiral wound.
11. (original) The filtration system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the filters comprises hollow fiber membranes.
12. (original) The filtration system of claim 1 further comprising an energy recovery device that derives energy from a waste fluid in the waste fluid flowpath.
13. (original) The filtration system of any one of claim 1 wherein the outer casing is disposed substantially above ground.
14. (original) The filtration system of claim 1 having a coupling/filter ratio $\leq 1:2$.
15. (original) The filtration system of claim 1 having a coupling/filter ratio $\leq 1:3$.
16. (original) The filtration system of claim 1 having a coupling/filter ratio $\leq 1:4$.

17. (currently amended) A filtration system comprising:
an elongated outer casing defining an outer lumen; and
a plurality of elongated inner casings disposed within the outer lumen, at least
one of the inner casings having an inner lumen in which is disposed an
upstream and a downstream filter, such that substantially all of a waste
fluid exiting the upstream filter is directed as a feed fluid into the
downstream filter, and is supplemented by additional feed fluid entering
the inner lumen through a downstream inlet at a point between the
upstream filter and downstream filter.
18. (previously presented) The filtration system of claim 17 wherein 50%-70% of any
feed fluid entering the at least one of the inner casings enters the inner casing
upstream of the upstream filter, and 50%-30% of the feed fluid entering the same
inner casing enters at a point downstream of the upstream filter.